

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks and amendments herein. The Examiner is again thanked for the many courtesies extended during the April 8, 2002 telephonic interview.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 36-44, 110-115, 117-119, 121-123, 125-127, 129 and 130 are pending. Claims 36-44, 110, 117-119, 121-123, 125, 126, 129 and 130 have been amended, and claims 116, 120, 124, 128, 131 and 132 have been cancelled, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

No new matter is added.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented and amended herein, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendment to the claims and the remarks made herein are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, the amendment and remarks are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled. Indeed, the amendments to the claims herewith are not narrowing amendments. Hence, no estoppel should attach or is intended by the herewith amendments. Support for the amended recitations is found throughout the specification.

II. THE OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS ARE OVERCOME

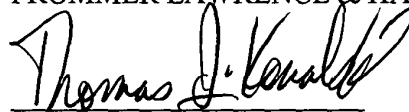
The Office Communication holds that the April 10, 2002 and April 12, 2002 Amendments were allegedly non-responsive for failing to include corrected drawings. Submitted herewith are new formal drawings which remedy the defects noted on the Notice of Draftperson's Drawing Review. Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is verily believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections of the application is respectfully requested, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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